DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 277 932 CG 019 614

AUTHOR Nelson, Christine Seipke; Keith, Joanne
TITLE Male Early Adolescent Sex Role Attitude and Behavior Development: A Life Span, Ecosystem Approach.
SPONS AGENCY Michigan State Univ., East Lansing. Agricultural Experiment Station.; Michigan State Univ., East Lansing. Cooperative Extension Service.
PUB DATE [83]
NOTE 21p.; Research also supported by the Michigan State University, Department of Family and Child Ecology and Michigan 4-H Youth Programs. For related document, see CG 019 524.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescent Development; *Adolescents; Attitude Measures; Behavior Theories; Elementary Education; *Males; Models; Parent Attitudes; *Parent Influence; *Preadolescents; *Sex Role; Sexual Identity; *Traditionalism

ABSTRACT

Theory and research related to early adolescent sex role development needs to be addressed from both a life-span and an ecological perspective. A study was conducted to examine the development of male early adolescent sex role attitudes and behaviors in an ecological context. Data were the results of a state-wide survey of 10- to 14-year-old males (N=146) and their parents conducted in Michigan in 1983. Youths were interviewed in their homes and parents responded to a questionnaire. Subjects were selected using a stratified multi-stage cluster sampling technique. Hierarchical multiple regression was used to test both early adolescent sex role attitude development and behavior development models. The model for male early adolescent sex role attitudes was significant. The level of traditionalism of male early adolescent sex role attitude development was significantly influenced by the level of traditionalism of the mother's sex role attitudes in interaction with the level of closeness that the son reported feeling about the mother, and the mother's and father's perceptions of their son's pubertal age. The model for male early adolescent sex role behavior was not significant. (Author/NB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED277932

MALE EARLY ADOLESCENT SEX ROLE ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR DEVELOPMENT: A LIFE SPAN, ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Christine Seipke Nelson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Family and Child Ecology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Joanne Keith, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Family and Child Ecology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

CG 019614

This research was conducted with support from the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension, Department of Family and Child Ecology, and Michigan 4-H Youth Programs.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Christine Nelson
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

ABSTRACT

This study examined the development of male early adolescent sex role attitudes and behaviors in an ecological context.

One hundred forty-six males (ages 10-14) were interviewed in their homes and parents responded to a questionnaire. Subjects were selected using a stratified multi-stage cluster sampling technique.

Hierarchical multiple regression was used to test both early adolescent sex role attitude development and behavior development models. The model for male early adolescent sex role attitudes was significant. The level of traditionalism of male early adolescent sex role attitude development was significantly influenced by the level of traditionalism of the mother's sex role attitudes in interaction with the level of closeness that the son reported feeling about the mother, and the mother's and father's perceptions of their son's pubertal age. The model for male early adolescent sex role behavior was not significant.

Male Early Adolescent Sex Role Attitude and Behavior Development: A Life-Span, Ecosystem Approach

In the past decade it has become increasingly clear that theory and research related to early adolescent sex role development need to be addressed from both a life-span and an ecological perspective. Emmerich (1973), Worrell (1981, 1982) and Katz (1979), point out that sex role development must be examined from a life-span view since it is an on-going developmental process. Worrell (1981) discusses the tremendous amount of change over the past fifteen years in areas related to sex roles and discusses this in relationship to historical time, which is a major concept of the life-span perspective. Others interested in sex role development, from a variety of theoretical perspectives, illustrate the need to go beyond the traditional view of parents as the major models for their youths' sex role development and point out the need to examine a variety of other environments which influence this life-long process (Block, 1978; Constantinople, 1979; Katz, 1979; Hill, 1983).

The conceptual framework delimited by Bronfenbrenner (1979) is well suited to study of the environments that influence early adolescent sex role development. The addition of the concept of human variables to Bronfenbrenner's schema of microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem environments creates an ecosystem for study (Bubolz, Eicher, and Sontag, 1979; Paolucci and Hook, 1970). It is especially important that human system variables are included in the study of early adolescence and that pubertal age is one of the human system variables since the concept of early adolescence as a life-stage is based upon the overriding impact of puberty and its implications for the early adolescent.

Human System

At the human system level, Rust and Lloyd (1982), in their study of junior high students, found that there is still stereotyping of female and male characteristics in this population. This stereotyping did not change by grade. This is contrary to the findings of Payne (1981). She found that male early adolescents were more likely to stereotype male and female roles, but that in general, the level of stereotyping was low and decreased as youths got older. In their report on sex role behaviors, Steinburg and Hill (1978) report opposite but related findings. They found that as boys matured, they were more likely to be traditional in their sex role behaviors. This led to the hypothesis by Hill and Lynch (1983) that as parents perceive that their sons are maturing, they begin to interact with them in sex-differentiating ways that lead to more stereotypic behavior.

Microsystem

In Bronfenbrenner's (1979) conceptual framework, parent-child dyads are part of the microsystem environment. Little research is available that examines the relationship between early adolescent sex role attitudes and behaviors and those of their parents. Until recently, most sex role development research was based on the traditional identification, cognitive, and social learning theories which limited their examination of development to the early years of childhood. However, Emmerich, Goldman, and

Shore (1971) examined the relationship between early adolescents' sex role attitudes and those of their parents in one of the first early adolescent sex role development life-span perspective studies. They found a positive relationship between the attitudes of parents and those of their sons. In studies of the antecedents of college students' sex role orientations, which have implications for behaviors, Orlofsky (1979) found that traditional sex typing occurred in boys when both parents modeled traditional sex role attributes. Kelly and Worrell (1976) reported similar results. In males, parental affection was positively related to nontraditional sex role behaviors.

Exosystem

By definition, an exosystem variable is a setting with which the human does not interact, but which has an influence upon his or her development nevertheless. Variables related to maternal employment are examples of exosystem variables. This set of variables is timely given the large numbers of mothers entering the work force over the past decade. In families with children ages six to seventeen years, the rate of maternal employment in 1980 was 61 percent as opposed to 49 percent in 1970.

Early adolescents with employed mothers consistently have been found to differentiate less in their sex role concepts (see review Montemayor and Clayton, 1983). They are less likely to stereotype males and females and do not look at sex roles as narrowly as do early adolescents of non-employed mothers. Sons of employed mothers are less likely to be nontraditional in their sex role attitudes than are daughters.

The effects of maternal employment on early adolescent sex role behaviors have been studied less often than have attitudes. They are clearly mixed. Cogle, Tasker, and Morton (1982) found that adolescents with employed mothers spent more time on housework than did other adolescents (ages 12-17). Medrich, Roizen, Rubin, and Buckley (1982) found that daughters, not sons, do more housework when their mother is employed. Conversely, Dellas et al. (1979) found no differences between children of employed and non-employed mothers while Propper (1972) found that girls were more likely to do more housework whether their mother was employed or not.

Two major recommendations for research have emerged in the maternal employment literature. The first is the examination of maternal employment as a proxy for a set of attitude variables (Rodgon, Gralewski, and Hetzel, 1977; Rollins and White, 1982). The second is the need to examine family variables related to maternal employment and their first or second order effects on it (Propper, 1972; Wallston, 1973).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Selected human system, microsystem, and exosystem variables and their relationships to male early adolescent sex role attitudes and behaviors were examined in this study in order to answer the following questions:

1. What is the role of chronological and pubertal age (human system) in male early adolescent sex role attitude and behavior development?

2. What is the role of the parent-child dyad (microsystem) in male early adolescent sex role attitude and behavior development?

3. What is the role of maternal employment (exosystem) in male early adolescent sex role attitude and behavior development?

4. What is the relationship between these subsystems and early adolescent male sex role attitudes and behaviors?

METHODS

Sample

This report focuses on the one hundred forty-six Michigan male early adolescents and their parents who participated in the 1983 Michigan Early Adolescent Survey (MEAS). A corresponding sample of females was also part of the study and are presented in a separate report. Youths in the study were evenly distributed over grades 5 through 8. Selection was based upon a stratified multi-stage cluster sampling technique which insured that all Michigan early adolescents living in homes had an equal probability of being selected.

Using the stratifier "early adolescent" population, clusters were randomly assigned to counties in the state of Michigan. Two densely-populated counties, Wayne and Oakland, were assigned more interviews than could possibly be conducted with the support staff available in those areas. Consequently, substitutions were made from other Michigan counties based on similarity of demographic characteristics. The clusters were then randomly assigned to public and private school districts, which had been weighted according to their early adolescent population. Lists of youths in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 were obtained, and one boy and one girl from each grade were randomly selected. This sampling technique assured that all 5th through 8th grade youths in the state of Michigan had an equal probability of being selected for the study. A total of 304 youths were selected. Because only 285 were subsequently interviewed, the data from the other youths in the same stratum as the missing respondents were weighted to account for those missing interviews.

When the sample was compared with a parallel 1980 census report on families with early adolescents, most demographic variables were of similar magnitude. Two differences were found; the parents in the MEAS sample were somewhat more educated and slightly older than the larger population.

Procedures

Parents of the youths were contacted by phone to ascertain their family's interest in being a part of the study. Trained volunteers interviewed the early adolescents in their homes while their parents filled out questionnaires. Interviews took approximately one hour.

Variables and Measures

Figure 1 shows the predictor and outcome variables examined in the study. Predictor variables were considered to be a part of the exosystem, the microsystem, or the human system. Scales and indexes which were constructed are discussed below.

Outcome Variables

Early adolescent sex role attitudes scale

Scores for this scale were formed by totaling the differences between each of a set of parallel statements about important qualities for men and women. Lower scores indicated non-traditionalism; higher scores indicated traditionalism. Examples are: How important is it for a man to be gentle? be educated? never cry? How important is it for a woman to be gentle? be educated? never cry? These qualities were selected from an instrument used by Broverman, Vogel, Clarkston and Rosenkrantz, 1972. They were also used in the parents' sex role attitudes scale. The reliabilities for the masculine and feminine subscales were .59 and .69 respectively.

Early adolescent sex role behaviors scale

This scale was created examining early adolescent participation in household tasks and leisure activities that each liked to do or was interested in learning. The activities were coded traditional or non-traditional based on Medrich, Roizen, Ruben, and Buckley, 1982; Cogle, Tasker, and Morton, 1982; Dellas, Gaier, and Emihovich, 1979; Propper, 1972; Jones, 1981; and Eagly and Anderson, 1978. Lower scores indicated non-traditionalism; higher scoresindicated traditionalism. The scale had a reliability of .95.

Predictor Variables

Parents' sex role attitudes scales

This scale represents the absolute difference between a parent's responses to masculine and feminine subscales. Subscales were developed from parents ratings of the importance of twelve qualities for their child. Lower scores indicated non-traditionalism; higher scores indicated traditionalism. Subscale reliabilities ranged from .58 to .69.

Parents' perception of youths' pubertal age index

This index was based upon Tanner's (1978) work. It is an attempt to locate early adolescent males on a developmental continuum based upon physical body changes as rated by parents. As such, it measures parents' perceptions of their youth's pubertal age.

Parent-early adolescent time index

This index is the total of nine early adolescent responses as to how often activities were done with their parents. Examples of these activities are eating dinner, doing homework, watching TV, and playing games together.

RESULTS

Descriptive Analyses: Outcome Variables

The level of traditionalism of sex role attitudes was clearly on the non-traditional end of the scale, with a mean of .394 with a range of 0-1.6. The level of traditionalism of sex role behaviors, conversely, was on the traditional end of the scale. The mean for this scale was .714 with a range of 0-1.

Descriptive Analyses: Predictor Variables

Human System

The human system variables were chronological and pubertal age. Three-fourths of the sample were evenly distributed across the ages of eleven, twelve, and thirteen. The remaining one-fourth was divided between ages ten and fourteen. Parents' assessments of their son's pubertal age were the same when sons were physically mature; sixteen percent reported this level. At the other end of the continuum, mothers were more likely to report that their sons were physically children (27%) than were fathers (10%).

Microsystem

Mothers and fathers were similar in their non-traditionalism of sex role attitudes and the amount of time that they spent with their sons. The mean score of the sex role attitudes scale for the mothers was 1.908; for fathers, the mean was 1.902 (range 0-11). The means for the amount of time mothers and fathers spent with their son were 3.1 and 3.0 respectively. Sons reported positive feelings toward both parents, although they were more likely to report that they felt closer to their mothers than their fathers. Ninety-four percent said that they were close or very close to their mothers; eighty-six percent said the same for their fathers.

Interaction variables were created for further analysis by multiplying each parent's sex role attitude score by the level of feeling that the early adolescent reported toward the parent and the amount of time spent with the parent. This resulted in two interaction variables for each parent and was done in order to be conceptually consistent with Bronfenner (1979). He suggests that the increasing amounts of time spent together lead to closer relationship. Since this takes place in the context of the parents sex role attitudes, the interaction variables were created. They are discussed later.

Exosystem Variables

Forty-seven percent of the mothers of male early adolescents were not employed; fifty-three percent were employed. Of those employed, one-fifth of the mothers had been employed since before their son had entered school. Four-fifths had entered the work force since that time.

Fathers were supportive of the mothers' work whether it was as full-time homemaker or employed. Eighty-nine percent indicated that they were happy or somewhat happy with what their wives were doing.

Relationships between Variables

Table 1 reports the correlation coefficients for the predictor and outcome variables. These findings are based on 97 to 147 cases.

Chronological age and the father's perception of the son's pubertal age were significantly correlated with the level of traditionalism of sex role attitudes at or beyond the .05 probability level. The interaction variables produced by crossing the father's level of traditionalism of sex role attitudes with amount of time spent with son and level of feelings of closeness reported by the son were significantly correlated to the level of traditionalism of the son's sex role behaviors. None of the correlation coefficients were higher than .30.

Multiple Regression Analyses

Hierarchical multiple regression was chosen to analyze the data due to the high level of multicollinearity found between the predictor variables (Cohen and Cohen, 1975). This multicollinearity was anticipated since some of the variables were created as interaction variables and since both parents' reports are part of the model. The findings for the hierarchical multiple regression analyses can be found in Tables 2 and 3. They are based upon 77 cases.

Sex Role Attitudes

Twenty-seven percent of the variance in the dependent variable level of traditionalism of male early adolescent sex role attitudes was accounted for in the multiple regression model. The overall F-ratio was 2.40210 which was significant (p=0.017). More than half of the explained variance was accounted for by the human system variables. The exosystem accounted for 2.5 percent of the variance in the dependent variable; the microsystem accounted for 7.4 percent of that variance.

Three variables had a probability level of less than .10. The microsystem interaction variable (the level of traditionalism of the mother's sex role attitudes with the level of closeness to the mother reported by the son) was significant at the 0.062 level. It accounted for 4.7 percent of the total variance. The father's perception of his son's pubertal age was significant at the 0.012 level and accounted for an additional 12 percent of the variance. The mother's perception of her son's pubertal age was also significant (p=0.077). It accounted for an additional 4 percent of the variance. The

mother's perception of her son's pubertal age was positively related to the level of traditionalism of early adolescent male sex role attitudes; the father's perception of his son's pubertal age was inversely related to the dependent variable.

Sex Role Behaviors

The findings for the hierarchical multiple regression for sex role behaviors can be found in Table 7. This model was not significant ($p=0.820$) and had no individual variables which were significant at the alpha level of <0.10.

DISCUSSION

Sex Role Attitudes

It is apparent from the multiple regression model for male early adolescent sex role attitudes that parents' perceptions of pubertal age are important to their sons's sex role attitude development. This supports a lifespan perspective of sex role development as well as the addition of human system variables to Bronfenbrenner's conceptual framework to create an ecosystem model. The strong influence of pubertal age is consistent with Katz's (1979) suggestion that biological factors are the most important source of influence on sex role attitudes, at least, for boys. The finding that the same perceptions of a son's pubertal age by his mother and father lead to opposite outcomes in the traditionalism of the son's level of sex role attitudes shows the complexity of sex role attitude development and implies that cross-parent processes discussed in relation to sex role orientations may also apply to the development of sex role attitudes (Orlofsky, 1979; Kelly and Worrell, 1976). This cross-parent influence is reinforced by the finding in this study that the son's level of closeness to his mother, in interaction with her sex role attitude, was significant in the sex role attitudes regression model.

Sex Role Behaviors

This study adds little to the neglible amount that is known about the development of male early adolescents' sex role behaviors. It does provide us with knowledge of which variables do not seem to be a factor in male early adolescent sex role behavior development. What is important is that both significant correlations were in some way related to fathers, father's sex role attitudes, the amount of time spent with the son, or the feelings of the son about his father. These variables provide a basis for further work.

This study strongly implies that male early adolescent sex role attitude and behavior development are very separate processes whose complexities we are only beginning to understand. The salience of the human and microsystem variables as well as cross-parent influences point out the need for a life-span ecosystem perspective as the foundation for further study.

Figure 1:

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH

Independent Variables

Exosystem Variables	Microsystem Variables	Human System Variables
Maternal employment	Interaction: Level of traditionalism of parental sex role attitudes with amount of time spent with child	Chronological age
Duration of maternal employment	Interaction: Level of traditionalism of parental sex role attitudes with level of closeness child reports for parent	Mother's perception of child's pubertal age
Father's attitude toward mother's work		Father's perception of child's pubertal age

Dependent Variables

Traditionalism of male early adolescent sex role attitudes

Traditionalism of male early adolescent sex role behaviors

TABLE 1:

Pearson Correlation Coefficients for Predictor and Outcome Variables

	Sex Role Attitudes	Sex Role Behaviors
	Males	Males
Maternal employment (DEMOM80)	-.11	.03
Duration of Maternal employment (DEMOM81)	.06	.08
Fathers' attitudes toward Mothers' work (FATTMW)	-.05	.02
Mothers' sex role attitudes (SCMSXATG/B)	.06	.08
Fathers' sex role attitudes (SCDSXATG/B)	.12	.10
Interaction: (Level of traditionalism of parental sex role attitudes with amount of time parent spends with child)		
Moms (SCMINTG/B)	.06	.12
Dads (SCDINTG/B)	-.03	-.30**
Interaction: (Level of traditionalism of parental sex role attitudes with level of closeness child feels for parent)		
Moms (SCMRESXG/B)	.01	.05
Dads (SCDRESXG/B)	.08	-.15*
Chronological Age	-.22**	-.06
Mothers' perception of child's pubertal age	.10	-.09
Fathers' perception of child's pubertal age	-.18*	-.00

* indicates p > .05
** indicates p > .01
*** indicates p > .001

TABLE 2:
Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses with
Male Early Adolescent Sex Role Attitudes
as the Dependent Variables

Independent Variables	Significance	R^2	R^2 Change	r	Subsystem R^2
Exosystem					.025
Maternal employment	.434	.008	.008	-.09	
Duration of maternal employment	.258	.025	.017	.09	
Father's attitude toward mother's work	.968	.025	.000	-.09	
Microsystem					.074
Interaction: (Mother's sex role attitudes with amount of time)	.986	.025	.000	-.01	
Interaction: (Father's sex role attitudes with amount of time)	.276	.042	.016	.10	
Interaction: (Mother's sex role attitudes with child's level of closeness)	.062	.088	.047	-.07	
Interaction: (Father's sex role attitudes with child's level of closeness)	.372	.099	.011	.11	
Human					.168
Chronological age	.481	.105	.007	-.14	
Mother's perception of pubertal age	.077	.147	.041	.16	
Father's perception of pubertal age	.012	.267	.120	-.16	

Overall F - ratio 2.402 Significance 0.017

TABLE 3:
Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses with
Male Early Adolescent Sex Role Behaviors
as the Dependent Variable

Independent Variable	Significance	R^2	R^2 Change	r	Subsystem R^2
Exosystem					.026
Maternal employment	.926	.000	.000	.01	
Duration of maternal employment	.167	.026	.026	.15	
Father's attitude toward mother's work	.882	.026	.000	-.00	
Microsystem					.044
Interaction: (Mother's sex role attitudes with amount of time)	.440	.034	.008	.09	
Interaction: (Father's sex role attitudes with amount of time)	.161	.060	.026	-.18	
Interaction: (Mother's sex role attitudes with child's level of closeness)	.421	.069	.009	.05	
Interaction: (Father's sex role attitudes with child's level of closeness)	.803	.070	.001	-.18	
Human					.011
Chronological Age	.923	.070	.000	.02	
Mother's perception of pubertal age	.377	.081	.011	.08	
Father's perception of pubertal age	.803	.081	.001	.04	

Overall F - ratio 0.58530 Significance 0.820

References

Block, J. H. Another look at sex differentiation in the socialization behaviors of mothers and fathers. In J. Sherman and F. Denmark (Eds.), The psychology of women: Future directions in research. New York: Psychological Dimensions, Inc., 1978.

Bronfenbrenner, U. The Ecology of Human Development: Experiments by Nature and Design. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1979.

Broverman, I. K., Vogel, S. R., Broverman, D. M., Clarkson, I. E., and Rosenkrantz, P. S. Sex role stereotypes: A current appraisal. Journal of Social Issues, 1972, 28, 59-78.

Bubolz, M., Eicher, J. and Sontag, M. S. The human ecosystem: A Model. Journal of Home Economics, 1979, Spring, 28-31.

Cogle, F. L., Tasker, G. and Morton, D. G. Adolescent time use in household work. Adolescence, 1982, 17, 451-455.

Cohen, J. and Cohen, P. Applied Multiple Regression/Correlation Analysis for the Behavioral Sciences. Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1975.

Constantinople, A. Sex role acquisition: In search of the elephant. Sex Roles, 1979, 5, 121-133.

Dellas, M., Gaier, E. L., and Emihovich, C. Maternal employment and selected behaviors and attitudes of preadolescents and adolescents. Adolescence, 1979, 14, 479-489.

Eagly, A. H. and Anderson, P. Sex role and attitudinal correlates of desired family size. Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 1974, 4, 151-164.

Emmerich, W. Socialization and sex role development. In P. B. Baltes and K. W. Schaie (Eds.), Life Span Developmental Psychology. New York: Academic Press, 1973.

Emmerich, W., Goldman, K. S., and Shore, R. E. Differentiation and development of social norms. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 1971, 18, 323-353.

Hill, J. P. Early adolescence: A research agenda. Journal of Early Adolescence, 1983, 3, 1-21.

Hill, J. P. and Lynch, M. E. The intensification of gender-related role expectations during early adolescence. In J. Brooks-Gunn and A. Petersen, (Eds.), Girls at Puberty: Biological and Psychological Perspectives. New York: Plenum Press, 1983.

Hook, N. C. and Paolucci, B. The family as an ecosystem. Journal of Home Economics, 1970, 62, 257-262.

Jones, R. M. A cross-sectional study of age and gender in relation to early adolescent interests. Journal of Early Adolescence, 1981, 1, 365-372.

Katz, P. A. The development of female identity. Sex Roles, 1979, 5, 155-178.

Kelly, J. A. and Worrell, L. Parent behaviors related to masculine, feminine, and androgynous sex role orientations. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 1976, 5, 843-851.

Medrich, E. A., Roizen, J., Rubin, V., and Buckley, S. The Serious Business of Growing Up: A Study of Children's Lives Outside School. Berkley: University of California Press, 1982.

Montemayer, R. and Clayton, M. D. Maternal employment and adolescent development. Theory into Practice, 1983, 22, 112-118.

Orlofsky, J. L. Parental antecedents of sex role orientation in college men and women. Sex Roles, 1979, 5, 495-512.

Payne, B. D. Sex and age differences in the sex role stereotyping of third and fifth grade children. Sex Roles, 1981, 7, 135-143.

Propper, A. M. The relationship of maternal employment to adolescent roles, activities, and parental relationships. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1972, 34, 417-421.

Rodgon, M. M., Gralewski, C. and Hetzel, J. Maternal attitudes toward sex roles related to children's attitudes toward maternal roles in second and sixth grade children. 1977. ERIC ED136 935.

Rollins, J. and White, P. N. The relationship between mothers' and daughters' sex role attitudes and self concepts in three types of family environments. Sex Roles, 1982, 8, 1141-1155.

Rust, J. O. and Lloyd, M. Sex role attitudes and preferences of junior high school age adolescents. Adolescence, 1982, 17, 37-43.

Steinburg, L. D. and Hill, J. P. Patterns of family interactions as a function of age, the onset of puberty, and formal thinking. Developmental Psychology, 1978, 14, 683-684.

Tanner, J. M. Education and Physical Growth. New York: International Universities Press, Inc., 1978.

Wallston, B. The effects of maternal employment on children. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 1973, 14, 81-95.

Worrell, J. Life-span sex roles: Development, continuity and change. In R. Lerner and N. Busch-Rossnagel (Eds.), Individuals as Producers of Their Development. New York: Academic Press, 1981.

Worrell, J. Psychological sex roles: Significance and change. In J. Worrell (Ed.), Psychological Development in the Early Years. New York: Academic Press, 1982.

ABSTRACT

This study examined the development of male early adolescent sex role attitudes and behaviors in an ecological context.

One hundred forty-six males (ages 10-14) were interviewed in their homes and parents responded to a questionnaire. Subjects were selected using a stratified multi-stage cluster sampling technique.

Hierarchical multiple regression was used to test both early adolescent sex role attitude development and behavior development models. The model for male early adolescent sex role attitudes was significant. The level of traditionalism of male early adolescent sex role attitude development was significantly influenced by the level of traditionalism of the mother's sex role attitudes in interaction with the level of closeness that the son reported feeling about the mother, and the mother's and father's perceptions of their son's pubertal age. The model for male early adolescent sex role behavior was not significant.